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108

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June 5, 1958

DATE

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SUBJECT: Formal Visit of King Saud to Eastern Province

On May 20 Radio Mecca carried the following announcement issued by "the doctors of the Dhahran Hospital":

"Medical tests have been conducted for HM King Sa'ud at the Dhahran Health Center, i.e., the Dhahran Hospital, since 17 May when His Majesty arrived on a visit to the Eastern Province. Extensive and detailed tests were made in the laboratories and by x-ray and clinical examination. There is no indication of the existence of any organic disease. From their findings, the doctors diagnosed that His Majesty suffered from fatigue. For this reason they advised His Majesty to stay at the Health Center for a few more days of rest under doctors' observation. His Majesty will afterward continue his visit of the Eastern Province. Signed Dr. Page; Dr. McCoy."

The King remained in the hospital until May 25. In the late afternoon of that day he emerged to be greeted "by a wave of applause and by photographers who crowded to take pictures of him and the royal party" (Radio Mecca, 25 May '50).

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Page 2 of

Encl. No.

Desp. No. 198

From AmConGen, Dhahran

27 May The King attended a brief ceremony at the Dammam Electric Company where he officially opened its new annex.

28 May In the late afternoon the King attended a special reception held in his honor by the Dammam Municipality in the Municipal Park. He was entertained by marching Boy Scouts and several long speeches.

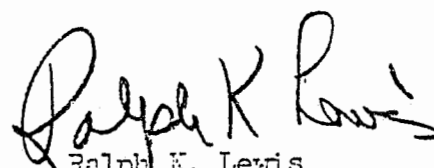
In the evening he attended a banquet given by Aramco in Dhahran. "Thousands of Company workers, employees, and officials welcomed His Majesty's arrival with waves of applause. Photographers and television cameramen recorded the event. During the banquet His Majesty was cheerful and greeted everyone in a democratic spirit." (Radio Mecca).

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Saud bin Jiluwi was most anxious that the King's visit be presented as both popular and successful. After Aramco TV carried an American type news broadcast, with motion pictures, of the reception at Dammam and the dinner at the Amirate, the Amir's secretary, Shaikh Ibrahim JINDAN, with the Amir on an extension, called George RENTZ, Aramco Local Government Relations, and told him of the Amir's great dissatisfaction with the film. The "enthusiasm" of the crowds was not shown, the number of people at the reception and at the dinner was underestimated, etc. In order to make up for its fumble Aramco has since presented an excellent one hour TV show covering the Royal visit to the Eastern Province. This film was broadcast once while the King was still in the Province and twice since his departure.

The reporting officer, who attended a similar series of protocol affairs during His Majesty's visit last October, detected no marked difference in the two visits. The numbers of people and their enthusiasm last year were much the same as this year.

FOR THE CONSUL GENERAL:


Ralph K. Lewis
American Consul

cc: Amembassy, JIDDA

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